

Media Release

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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**  
ON A JOURNEY

Tjulyuru Cultural and Civic Centre  
Warburton Community

PMB 87 via Kalgoorlie  
Western Australia 6431

Telephone: (08) 8956 7966  
Facsimile: (08) 8956 7959

Email: [mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au](http://www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au)

## **Ngaanyatjarraku prepares microgrid proposal for a brighter and more sustainable future**

As the nation continues to experience the impacts of climate change, the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) recognises the need for climate preparedness and is taking action.

Formed in May 2021, the GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Program aims to advocate for and deliver positive climate change outcomes in the Goldfields Esperance region by pooling resources and collaborating with neighbouring Local Government Authorities.

The GVROC, Regional Climate Alliance working group representatives will be workshopping a number of projects to determine their viability. These projects include developing a Feasibility Study to seek funding under the Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots Program (RAMPP) in the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, to supplement the diesel power generation network in Warburton with solar/battery backup.

RAMPP was launched under the 2020-21 Federal Budget and is administered by the Australian Renewal Energy Agency (ARENA). With \$50 million of grants available, the program is designed to support pilot projects for microgrids in regional Australia.

The Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Angus Taylor describes microgrids as “small-scale electricity systems that can coordinate local sources of energy, such as solar panels and battery storage, and innovative technologies like hydrogen, to provide secure and reliable electricity for a local community.”

The microgrids will provide a robust and sustainable solution to rural and isolated communities.

Shire President, Damian McLean said, any funding secured could be used to undertake a microgrid pilot trial in the shire to supplement the diesel power generation network in Warburton with solar/battery backup. “The Ngaanyatjarra Lands is not connected to WA’s main grid, and if the diesel generators fail we have no alternative source of power to service our regional communities,” said Cr McLean.

“Council is dedicated to building stronger and more resilient communities. The microgrid pilot trial would help ensure we have reliable backup power in time of crisis,” he added.

“This program is a proactive investment in community resilience and if the grant application is successful, may provide us with cheaper, cleaner, more reliable energy.”

The GVROC is also workshopping a feasibility planning study to explore the possibility of installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations across the region. This will become even more important when the Great Central Road is sealed.

The charging stations would allow electric vehicles to travel across the Goldfields Esperance region. This will help reduce carbon emissions while enabling more travellers to use the regional roads, supporting the tourism industry. OzMinerals and Qube are already looking at using electric trucks to haul their ore from their West Musgrave mine site in the future.

“We have taken exciting steps forward in GVROC’s sustainability commitments and we look forward to finding innovative ways to create a more sustainable and cleaner future for all,” said Cr McLean.

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Damian McLean

Shire President

P: (08) 8956 7966

E: [mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au)